

Tuesday January 2 1996

Table of international exchange rates for various countries including Albania, Andorra, Austria, etc.

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 46,438

Badger, the bypass and the barricades

The third battle of Newbury

Guardian 2 with European weather



Prozac: views across the divide

Blunder or wonder drug?

Health G2 pages 12/13

The real story of the ANC's greatest coup

Blast from a nuclear past

This section page 8



Major in crisis talks

Rebecca Smithers Political Correspondent

JOHN Major interrupted his holiday break at Chequers yesterday to talk to his closest Cabinet colleagues about the deepening crisis within the Conservative Party...

is probably much the same. We have a broad breadth of opinion within the party...



Horn players were among 6,000 musicians in the London Parade on new year's day attempting to beat the world record for the largest marching band

Armed gang murder good Samaritan



Evon Berry... tried to stop street robbery

Four 'dangerous' men on the run after street shooting incident

Geoffrey Gibbs

POLICE were last night hunting an armed gang who shot dead one man and injured two others who intervened to prevent what appears to have been an attempted street robbery in the St Paul's area of Bristol...

Black Watch troops 'joined triad'

Andrew Higgins in Hong Kong and John Mullin

SOLDIERS from the Black Watch, whose colonel-in-chief is the Queen Mother, were said yesterday to have become embroiled in the notorious Chinese triads in Hong Kong...

There have been two other shootings in the area in the past month, both thought to be drug-related. The spokesman added: "The wanted men are armed and dangerous. They must not be approached. But police should be informed immediately if they are sighted."

Advertisement for 'If you want to get fit, we've got it all worked out' featuring a magazine cover.

Portillo — then and now

'The foreign and defence policies of this country will not be dictated to us by a majority of ministers'

'It is very silly to say that the party has tilted to the right — that is completely incredible'

Michael Portillo, January 1 1996

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Sketch

In the money and well out of sight



Stephen Bates

ANYONE going to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg yesterday in the hope of watching its prosperous citizens spending the highest per capita incomes in the world was in for a sad let-down. Luxembourg was, to all intents and purposes, closed.

The World Bank has decided that the Luxembourg-geists (and they are very bourgeois) have the highest average incomes in the world: nearly \$40,000 (£25,544) a head, way ahead of Japan and the US.

Indeed Luxembourg is 168 countries ahead of Mozambique, the world's least prosperous nation, whose citizens have an average annual income of just \$80 (£51), or the average cost of a half-decent meal for two in a little restaurant on Luxembourg's boulevard Franklin Roosevelt.

Book review

Catalogue sells a spiv's decade

Dan Glaister

Peter York's Eighties
Peter York and Charles Jennings

PETER YORK is a man with a mission. There he is, leaning forward, peering archly from the cover of his latest book: this man has something to tell us. Perhaps, even, to sell us. The man who told us about Sloanes with his Sloane Ranger Handbook, the man who sold us stylish aperçus in the pages of Harpers & Queen, the man who gave us Style Wars has returned, to tell us about exactly the same things as before: the Eighties.

Big Apple rot slows down as crime rate drops drastically

IN a dramatic acceleration of a four-year trend, New York City's crime rate has registered its steepest drop in 23 years, despite the killing of five people at a Bronx shoe store last month.

Of course, it was a bank holiday in Luxembourg, the country which has based its prosperity on banking and discretion. It is here where the accountants of Europe advise their clients to hide their funds, safe from prying domestic tax authorities. You don't even need to use your own name. Yesterday the banks along the Boulevard Royal were all shuttered, marble halls gleaming but deserted.

Hubert Hoffmann and his wife Monika, walking their white poodle through the shopping centre of the upper city, were mildly surprised to be classed among the most prosperous citizens in the world. "We do all right, but I don't think we are special," said Hubert, a retired car worker, originally from Germany. "Everything is very expensive here, so we need a lot of money."

Luxembourg retains a slightly Ruritanian air, with its turreted ducal palace, its cobbled squares and spiky church spires. If there are beggars, as there are in most European cities these days, they were not out yesterday in the bitter cold: the only youth to be seen crouching in a doorway turned out to be an Italian student waiting for a friend.

Of course, the World Bank's per capita income reckoning is bogus: it is distorted by all the income from all those banks, and it takes no account of the high proportion of foreign commuters who come into Luxembourg each day, because their earnings go abroad: 15 miles west, south or east.

A quarter of the workforce comes in across the borders each day, half of all the workers in the duchy are foreigners, and that figure rises to two-thirds in the private sector. The bankers of Europe have found it more economical to move their employees to Luxembourg than to keep them in cities like Brussels, where taxes are higher. Luxembourg is proud to have created 19,000 new jobs since 1991, but only a thousand of those have gone to locals.

By other reckonings, Luxembourg is only the 13th richest region in Europe and its citizens are third in purchasing power after Australia and Canada. You can do anything with figures.

the feel of a rush job: Leaving aside the errors—repetitions, omissions—this is writing to be read aloud: ungrammatical, rhetorical, italicised.

Not that it doesn't work. Lie back and let the words sploosh over you. "Pick a decade, not just any decade," it starts. York recently told an interviewer that "I used to read a lot of books. Now, I mean, I just get things..."

Peter York's Eighties, accordingly, reads like a catalogue. Pioneers? Ah, yes, there is Sherman, Joseph, Thatcher, Perry, Bowie, Rusty Egan... It's like soap opera: familiar cast, familiar plot. It's all so easy.

But what does York do with all this observation? He delivers it to us in a series of chapters, each with a golden age for many, including Peter York, New Romantic revivals, Sounds of the Eighties on TV, dredged up, invested with some gravitas, and with a snap of the braces you have a TV series (starting Saturday), a book, a new career as a nostalgia-peddler.

Peter York hasn't moved on. The cover of this book shows him as we remember him: crisp shirt, polished tie, red braces, tightly coiffed, head hair. The man looks as if he went into a Chelsea wine bar in 1987 and has stumbled out unaware that it is 1996.

York's decade is divided into six charmingly alliterative chapters: Pioneers, Paradise, Property, Plots, Pushers and Post-Eighties. The style is ad-speak, or perhaps tele-speak. This is, after all, the book of the series, and in the best tradition of Eighties instant publishing it has

TORIES IN TURMOIL: Moderates alienated by moves appease potentially rebellious members



Michael Portillo's tub-thumping Conference speech whipped up nationalist sentiment PHOTOGRAPH: DON MCFEE

Right deepens party rifts

Rebecca Smithers examines how fundamental areas of policy have sharply changed direction over the past year

ALTHOUGH Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, yesterday vehemently denied that the Conservatives were increasingly lurching to the right — one of the main reasons Emma Nicholson gave for defecting — senior Tories privately concede that policies on Europe, welfare, education and immigration have tilted in that direction over the last 13 months.

In a speech personally authorised by John Major, Mr Portillo promised to resist moves towards a European defence policy, pledging not to join a "single European army" and stating that UK servicemen were ready to give their lives for Britain but "not for Brussels".

1000 days ahead
The pitfalls facing John Major

JANUARY
The Tories will not...
Rotation of...
significant...
By-elections
With Labour set to hold its safe seat of Hemsworth, and win the Tory constituency of Staffordshire South-East, the government's majority will fall to just one, excluding the last 'whippers' Tory euro-rebel, Sir Richard Body.

MARCH
Key staff to quit
The departure of John Major's press secretary and trusted adviser Christopher Meyer to an ambassadorial post...
could upset stability at Number Ten.

FEBRUARY
Europe
Old wounds on Europe reopened as the Prime Minister prepares to join other EU heads of government for the opening of the inter-governmental conference (IGC) in Turin, Italy, which designed to build on the controversial Maastricht Treaty. He is expected to try to soothe any tensions at a meeting of the Conservative Central Council in Harrogate.

APRIL

MAY

JULY/AUGUST
Minority
The Government could well have lost its overall majority by this stage, making it vulnerable to defeat in the Commons.
Sniping
Summer is traditionally the time for 'silly season' back-bench sniping and John Major will have to take steps to keep it to a minimum.
Reshuffle
Although John Major may decide to make only minimal changes to his top team, his composition is vital in the run-up to the election, and any controversial moves are bound to attract criticism.

OCTOBER

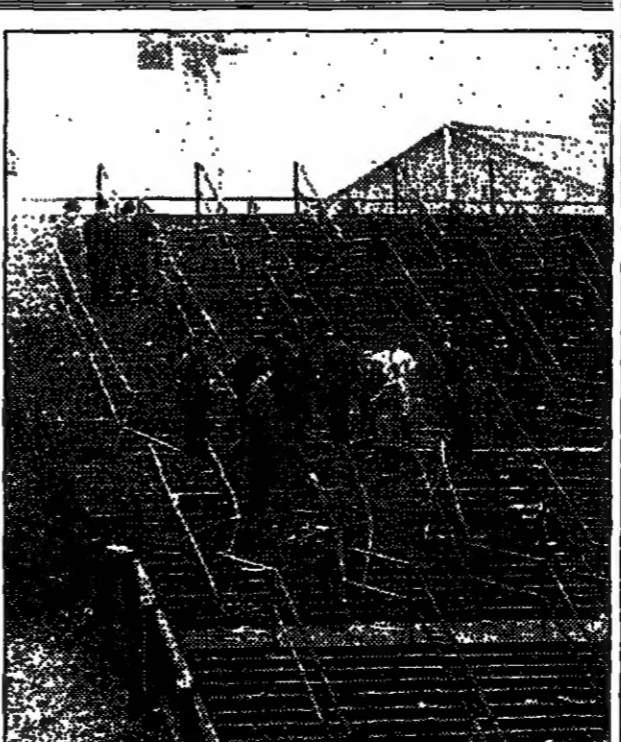
NOVEMBER

Quarter-century fails to wipe out memories of Ibrox's dark day

John Mullin talks to survivors

THERE were more than 80,000 of them, off to celebrate New Year in the cauldron of an Old Firm derby 25 years ago. Rangers versus Celtic, and Glasgow's preferred method of washing away another Hogmanay hangover. Sixty-six of them were never to return home.

It was the worst soccer disaster in British history, exceeded 18 years later when 96 Liverpool fans were crushed at Hillsborough, the lessons unlearned. January 2, 1971 will be forever one of Glasgow's darkest days, and many long bore the mental, as well as the physical, injuries.



Officials examine the collapsed barriers at stairway 13

Matt Reid was 19, and took his father, who rarely went, as a treat. "I was so chuffed when I managed to get him a ticket for the Old Firm match," he said. "My dad died, and Matt never went to a football match for more than 20 years. "Even now I still look across to the part where it happened, and the memories come flooding back."

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الجمهورية العربية السورية

Ailing Saudi king hands reins to heir

David Hirst in Beirut

KING FAHD yesterday handed over the effective government of Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter and a mainstay of Western policies in the Middle East, to his half-brother, Crown Prince Abdullah.

The ailing monarch, aged 74, who suffered a debilitating stroke in November, has not formally abdicated. But the signs are that he has transferred power permanently to his heir apparent.

The succession — the fifth since the kingdom's founder, Abdul Aziz, died in 1933 — was always expected to be a difficult one. The laconic announcement of what purports to be a provisional transfer of authority does not inspire confidence that it has been smoothly accomplished.

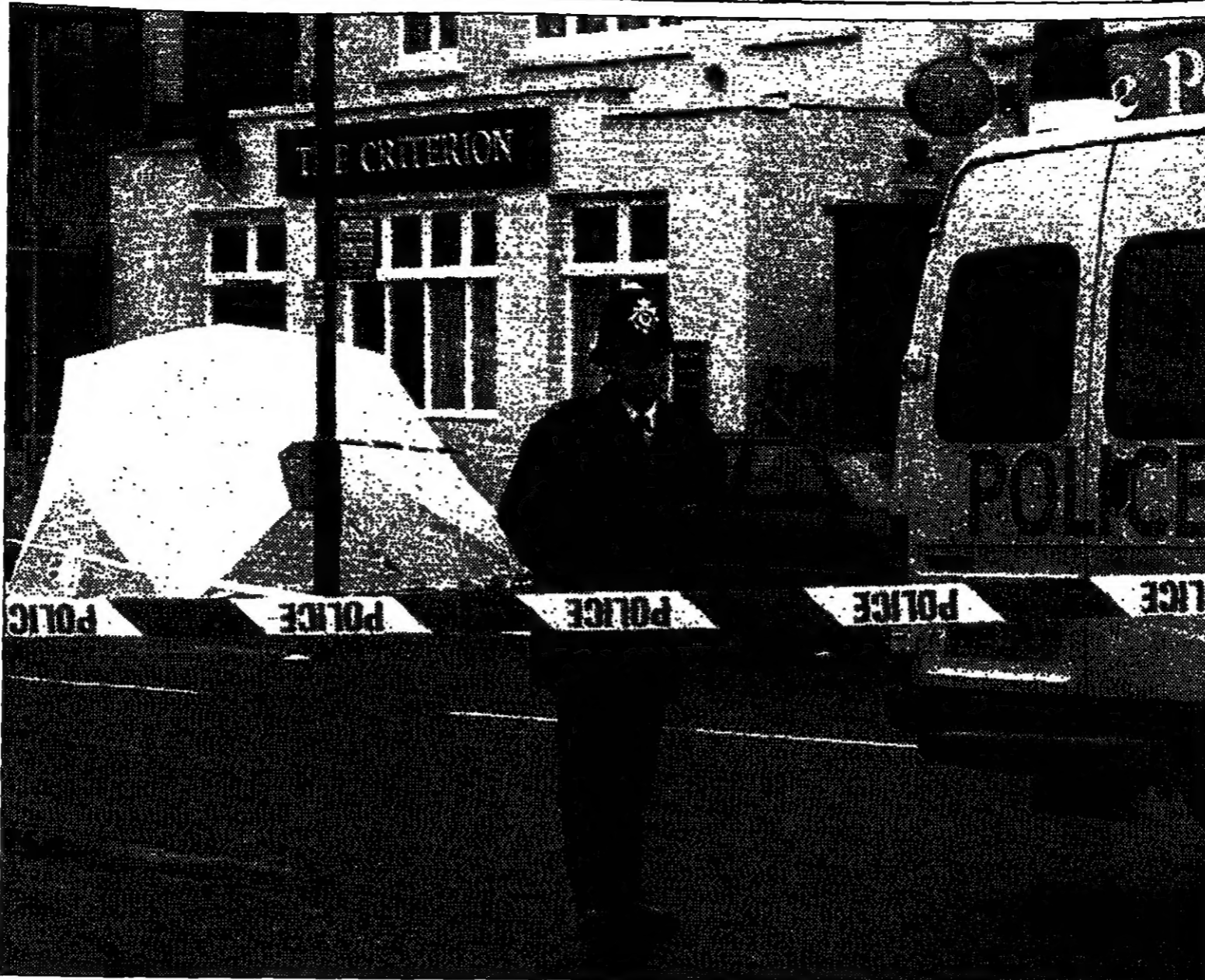
The Saudi opposition claims he never recovered his speech and that pictures of him on television, after his release from hospital, were fake.

The House of Saud, composed of several thousand descendants of Abdul Aziz, traditionally rallies behind any new ruler, whose choice is assured in advance. But that choice could be contentious this time because of constitutional changes King Fahd introduced in 1993.

The succession previously went to the most senior of Abdul Aziz's sons — of whom there were 45 recorded ones, from 22 wives. King Fahd opened it up to the grandsons. Now, the heir apparent should be the most "suitable" of Abdul Aziz's descendants. Although the monarch chooses his own successor, the new provision throws the issue open to debate — and power struggles.

The "Sudeiri Seven" — offspring of Abdul Aziz's reputedly favourite wife — include such powerful figures as the defence minister, Prince Sultan, the interior minister, Prince Nayif, and the governor of Riyadh, Prince Salman. They are undoubtedly keen to preserve their ascendancy.

Successor: Prince Abdullah, King Fahd's half-brother



Police activity at the scene of yesterday's fatal shooting in St Paul's, Bristol, and (below) the aftermath of the 1980 riot in the area

'When he saw anyone in trouble, he had to help'

Gary Young on a site of violence

Dawn death in urban badland

THE fatal shooting of community centre caretaker Evon "Bugsy" Berry, who died yesterday, tried to stop a street thief in St Paul's, Bristol, will only further entrench the area's notoriety as one of Britain's most violent urban badlands, despite the efforts of many local people to turn things around.



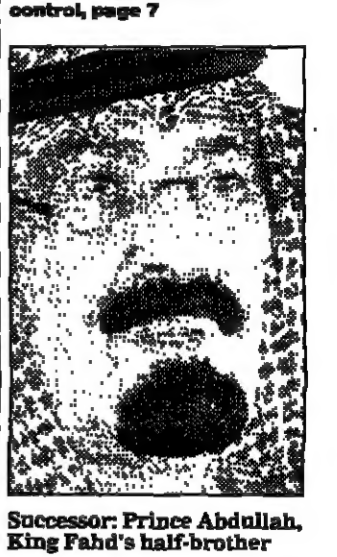
St Paul's is the first of Britain's inner-cities to go up in flames in the eighties when unemployment in the community was running at more than 20 per cent. But the area, which lies at the heart of Bristol's Trinity Road district, did not attract the kind of money that was earmarked for the likes of Toxteth, in Liverpool, or Brixton, in south London.

St Paul's was the first of Britain's inner-cities to go up in flames in the eighties when unemployment in the community was running at more than 20 per cent. But the area, which lies at the heart of Bristol's Trinity Road district, did not attract the kind of money that was earmarked for the likes of Toxteth, in Liverpool, or Brixton, in south London.

At the time, the government refused to admit a link between these disturbances and urban deprivation. But it was a fact that even the local police could not ignore. "Is it a coincidence that, at the depths of the 1980-81 recession, when unemployment began to rise sharply from its 1970 base, the first urban riots of the modern era occurred in St Paul's and Brixton?" asked the Avon and Somerset constabulary in the Operational Police Review. But in 1986, St Paul's saw many of its inhab-

was originally intended in a way that made any real difference. The unemployment rate remained high and racial tensions between local community and police have continued to simmer. "The perception held by black people is still that the system is not fair. Their experience is that they are dealt with much more harshly," said the chairman of Bristol's Society Against Racial Incidents, Sohail Elahi. But the disturbances which took place in Bristol's working class housing estate of Hartcliffe in 1982 showed that, if the defining factors in the 1980s uprisings had been racism and police harassment, they had now shifted to poverty and the petty crime of the never-employed.

By this time St Paul's had gained a reputation as a focal point for drug-related crime that it has found difficult to shake off. Between 1980 and 1989 violent offences and car theft in Bristol almost doubled, burglaries and indecent assaults against women more than doubled, and theft from cars and serious criminal damage rocketed by some 350 per cent. Surveys have indicated that Trinity district accounted for one in four of the crimes committed in the entire Avon and Somerset police area and that an estimated 90 per cent are drug-related.



Desert hawk assumes control, page 7

Some of those who have paid the price for having a go

Ted Newberry, aged 82, was ordered to pay £4,000 to an intruder, Mark Revill, after shooting him when he tried to break into a shed on his allotment at Ilkeston, Derbyshire, in 1988. At the time he was cleared of deliberately injuring Mr Revill, who was jailed for six months. Mr Revill subsequently pursued a civil suit.

Roy Bannistre-Parker, a retired major, was arrested last June after tackling a youth who broke into his home. Charges against Mr Bannistre-Parker were dropped but his shotgun licence was revoked.

Barrie Richards, aged 59, was charged with actual bodily harm against Michael Hecker, 20, after he fired his shotgun over the heads of two thieves in July. Mr Richards was acquitted and Mr Hecker was jailed for eight months for stealing from a car.

Stuart Hicken, a 41-year-old Bridlington hotelier, was ordered to do 150 hours' community service and pay £750 costs last July after he locked up a guest, Norman Stocks, in the cellar after catching him taking £5. Mr Stocks was given a conditional discharge.

Malcolm Albrighton, 48, died after being punched by a burglar he tried to chase from his home in Warwickshire in May 1994.

Harold Petrie, 46, was stabbed to death by a robber last September after saving his wife, who was at a social club in Aberdeenshire.

John Penfold, 22, was given a posthumous bravery award from the Queen after he was stabbed to death in November 1994 by Ian Kay when he tried to foil a robbery at Woolworth's in Teddington, where he worked. Kay was jailed for a minimum of 22 years.

Philip Lawrence, a 40-year-old headmaster, was stabbed to death last month after he tried to intervene as a gang attacked a pupil on his school in Maidstone, Kent.

French dictionary writes wrongs

ALex Duval Smith in Paris

FRENCH author has come up with the perfect tool for anyone who has spent ages leafing through a dictionary to locate the correct spelling of a word. Michel Danse's Dictionary of Spelling Mistakes lists French words according to the manner in which they are most frequently misspelled and gives the correct version.

The silent H leads to many aberrations. Listed under A is "adok" which the book explains should be spelled "adocok". Similarly, under E, you find that the correct spelling of "ernie" is "hernie" (hernia). Foreign words are hardest of all, such as "bookmaker" (bookmaker) and "wouist" (whist).

The title of the inch-thick book — Dictionnaire des Fautes d'Orthographe — is likely to catch out many of its readers, who are likely to spell it Dictionnaire des Fôtes d'Orthographe. Even then they have to know their "alfabet" (alphabet) and have some "vo-

quabulère" (vocabulaire). Mr Danse, aged 56, whose previous work includes a guidebook to a Paris cemetery, said he got the idea while working as a French teacher. "Approximate spelling can be found in all walks of life. It struck me that ordinary dictionaries are only of help if you already know how to spell the word you are looking for," he said. "Over a number of years I kept note of frequently misspelled words. The dictionary is really just a list of them," he said. The book, published by Edi-

tions du Rocher and priced £19.95 (29.50), may revive a debate which last raged nearly 10 years ago over whether written French should be adapted to modern phonetics. Under the system of "nouvelle orthographe" — an idea floated by the French Academy in 1987 — the word phonétique would be spelled fonetik.

The system met with howls of protest in a country in which orthography is considered an art form. Every year, a national spelling competition is organised, with regional heats and a final which is broadcast live on television.

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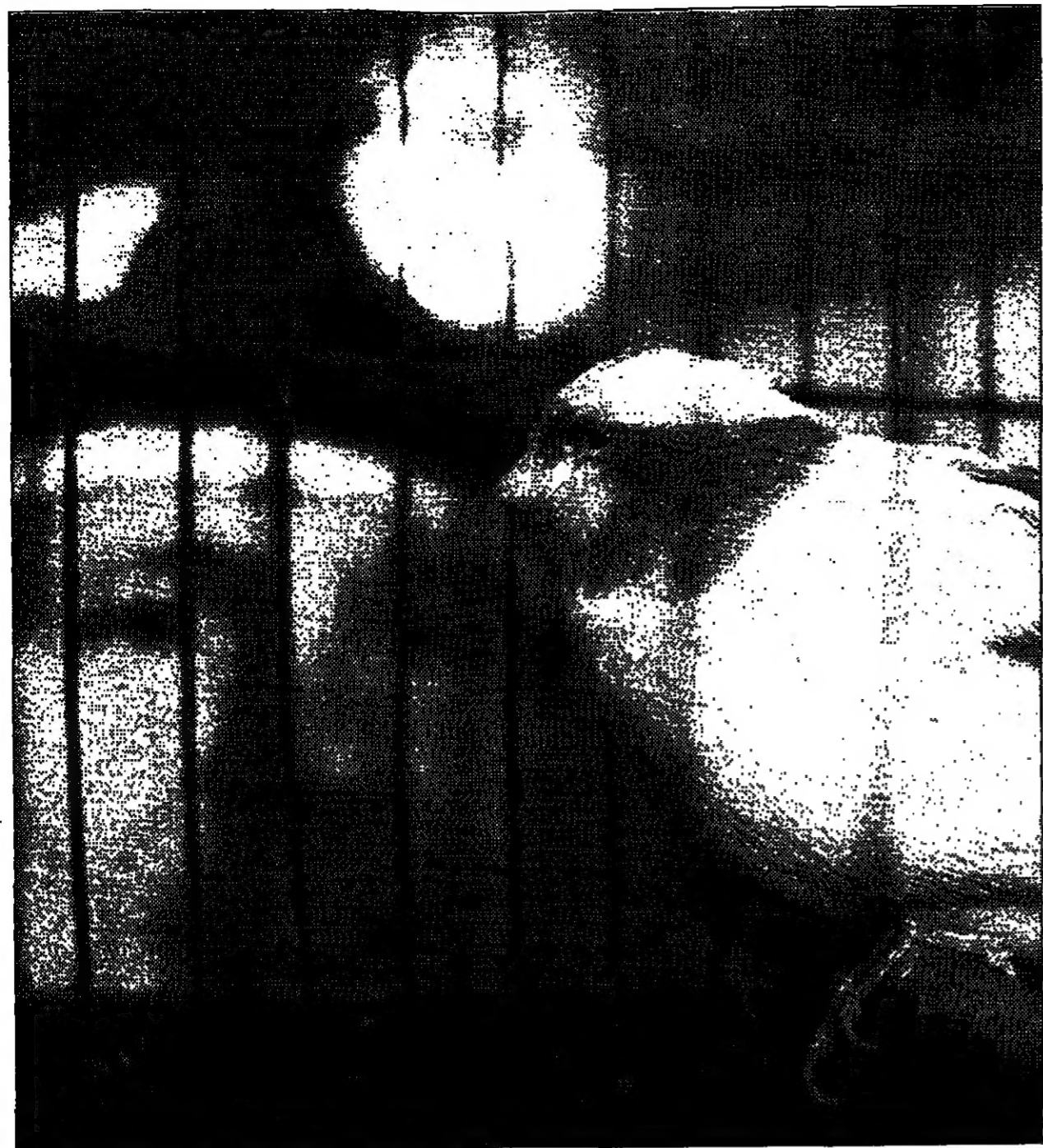
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The ground where the fifth Test starts today not only bears no resemblance to the one on which England played their last Test in Cape Town 31 years ago, it bears no resemblance to that used three years ago.

Matthew Engel page 15

JULY AUGUST
OCTOBER
NOVEMBER
ifts
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MENT OF
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TINAL



Last day at pit... One of the last canaries to put his life on the line for miners is shown off by Gary Williams, rescue official at Houghton-le-Spring, Tyne and Wear. The bird and his colleagues are retiring under a new law ending the need for songbirds to be used in pits as back-up for battery-operated poison gas detectors
PHOTOGRAPH: PAUL NORRIS

English start earlier than French and Spanish, survey shows

Family attitudes blamed for teenage drinking

Chris Mihill
Medical Correspondent

MORE English teenagers drink alcohol than their contemporaries in France and Spain, and their consumption is higher, research has found.

A perceived lack of family support by English parents, and social pressures to appear adult, which are not present in France or Spain, may account for the higher rates of drinking, say the researchers, who have looked at nearly 7,000 young people.

Parental attitudes towards alcohol appear particularly crucial to boys' consumption, with both overly liberal and too strict regimes encouraging drinking.

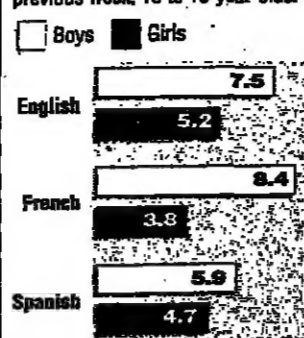
The study into adolescent drink and perceptions of family life was carried out by Geoff Lowe, a psychologist at the University of Hull, and David Foxcroft, of Portsmouth University, together with Jacques Weill, from Paris, and Javier Alvarez, of Valladolid, in northern Spain.

The researchers analysed questionnaires from children aged 11 to 16 at 85 schools in Humberston, 12 in Tours and eight in Valladolid. They involved 4,386 English pupils, 1,504 Spanish and 960 French.

Overall, only 14 per cent of the English pupils said they did not drink, compared with 32 per cent of the French and 46 per cent of the Spanish.

Among those aged 13 to 16 who said they were drinkers, the average number of units consumed in the previous

Teenage drinking
Average units consumed in the previous week, 13 to 16-year-olds.



week was 7.5 for English boys and 5.2 for English girls. For French boys it was 3.8, for girls 2.4, for Spanish boys 5.9, and for girls 4.7. A unit represents half a pint of beer or a small glass of wine.

Those aged 11 to 16 who reported drinking 21 units or more in the past week stood at 3 per cent of the Spanish pupils, 5 per cent of the French and 6 per cent of the English.

The numbers saying their fathers were regular drinkers stood at 33 per cent for both the English and French pupils, and 20 per cent for the Spanish. The rates for mothers being regular drinkers were 16 per cent for the English teenagers, 14 for the French and 4 for the Spanish.

Pupils who reported that their parents did not like them to drink consisted of 69 per cent of the Spanish children, 36 French and 16 English.

The report concluded: "Self-

reported drinking behaviour was greater in English adolescents, particularly boys. Perceptions of family support and control are greater in French and Spanish adolescents.

Parental attitudes to drinking are perceived as more liberal/lenient by English adolescents. In the case of boys, such influences seem to contribute significantly to differential drinking patterns."

English children may be under greater pressure to attain adult status, and that drinking is one socially perceived characteristic of adult status. "By contrast in France and Spain there may be less pressure on children and adolescents to hurry into adulthood."

Dr Lowe said that overall teenage drinking was not at alarming levels in this country, but that parents should be aware that their attitudes were important. A too strict approach, so that alco-

hol appeared as "forbidden fruit" was counter-productive, but so was an overly liberal approach, especially if this was perceived by the children as indifference or lack of care.

"There are some youngsters who get into heavy drinking, but the vast majority drink much less or are non-drinkers. However, among English drinkers, more drank to get drunk than the French or Spanish," Dr Lowe said.

"There were also differences in where the first drink was taken. English pupils were more likely to have had it from a friend in the street or a park, whereas for the French or Spanish it was likely to be in bar, restaurant or the family home.

"We have no evidence that teenage drinking in this country is a problem or is getting worse, but our work does show that family attitudes are quite important."

'Life-saving' drink limit gets road safety toast

Figures to be released today are expected to show a fall in the number of motorists testing positive for drink-driving during Christmas and the new year. Australia and some EU countries have adopted a lower alcohol limit — rejected by Steven Norris — which they say saves lives.
Sue Quinn reports



Steven Norris: rejected call by BMA and safety council

AS THE minister responsible for overseeing the campaigns against drink-driving, Steven Norris would get short shrift from his Australian counterparts over the Government's refusal to lower the motoring alcohol limits.

A month ago Mr Norris rejected a joint call by the British Medical Association and Parliamentary Advisory Council on Road Safety to reduce the blood alcohol concentration from 80mg per 100ml of blood to 50mg.

He said such a change would not necessarily change drivers' behaviour. But in Australia and in some parts of Europe, the conviction is growing that lower limits keep deaths off the roads.

Australia's 50mg per 100ml limit is recognised to have contributed to a 12 per cent national reduction in crashes involving drivers with blood alcohol above 150mg per 100ml as well as an 8 per cent reduction in the range between 50 and 150.

So convinced were the road safety authorities in Australia that the lower limit saved lives and money that the federal government made it a condition that no state or territory would receive special

road funding grants unless they fell into line.

In Queensland, which reduced its limit from 80 to 50 in 1982 the argument for a lower limit is compelling.

A study by the Western Australian Drug Authority showed that three years after the introduction of the new level, there had been a 13.6 per cent reduction in the number of night-time road accidents involving hospitalisation.

In New South Wales, the most highly populated state, the limit was reduced in 1980 and a random breath testing programme introduced two years later. Since then the state's road toll has steadily declined from 1,253 per year to 651 in 1994. And the proportion of drivers and riders killed with blood alcohol of 50mg or more fell from about 40 per cent in 1981 and has averaged 33 per cent ever since.

Advocates of a European 50mg limit are looking with interest at Belgium, which reduced its blood alcohol limit from 80 to 50 in December, 1994.

Initial results show there was a 28 per cent reduction in the number of alcohol related accidents in the first two

months compared with the corresponding period in the previous year.

This included an 11 per cent reduction in alcohol related accidents where people were injured and a 20 per cent reduction in fatal and serious accidents.

Jeanne Breen, the executive director of the European Transport Safety Council, urges caution. She says that since then there has been no increase in breath testing or police vigilance and little follow up media interest.

"It's likely that the initial reductions will not be sustained because of this," she says.

However the European Transport Safety Council strongly believes there is evidence to warrant the introduction of a standard EU 50mg limit.

There are five different levels operating in the EU, ranging from 20mg (Sweden) to 80mg (Austria, Denmark, Germany, Britain, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg and Spain). But there is a trend towards the 50mg level introduced in Finland, France, Greece, Belgium and Holland.

Rob Gifford, executive director of the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Road Safety, is perplexed at the British Government's intransigence on the issue.

While drink-drive road deaths in Britain have fallen from about 1,300 per year in the early 1980s to 510 last year, he says the trend has stalled and "hard core" drink drivers need their behaviour further modified.

"I think you can make a very strong case that a reduction in the limit would lead to a reduction in the number of fatalities, as long as it is supported by vigorous enforcement and a public education campaign," Mr Gifford says.

"My view is that we have got to a place below which it is very difficult to go without a lower limit on the amount of alcohol people can consume."

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The lines are already drawn for the so-called Third Battle of Newbury. It could spark off this week, when the bulldozers move in on the communities living in wigwams, benders and treehouses along the route of the proposed A34 bypass.

Alex Bellos G2 page 2

THE BEST OF IRELAND. FROM TOP TO BOTTOM. AND COVER TO COVER.

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It's the Year of the Pier, but many 'unique' coastal landmarks are on a financial limb

New wave of hope to save rotting piers from the sea

Maev Kennedy and Tom Sharrett

THE Year of the Pier swept in yesterday on a tide of enthusiasm around the country's coasts... The British Association of Leisure Parks, Piers and Attractions, and the National Piers Society, have signed up 23 pier-owners to celebrate the event with end-of-the-pier shows, clowns and fireworks.

year more is washed away and the end of the pier is now an island. Bognor Regis pier is still open, but its admirers don't think it will last long enough to join in the party... The Pavilion, isolated by storms in 1964, sank in a blizzard the following year.



Sea of troubles... Southport's 1880 pier, which faces closure without £2.7m lottery funds to save it. PHOTOGRAPH: DON McPHEE

Trident refit control goes to US

David Fairhall Defence Correspondent

THE support of Britain's nuclear deterrent force is about to be handed over to an US-owned company at a cost about £100 million higher than the last figure the Government mentioned... Three centuries after Devonport became a royal naval dockyard the Ministry of Defence is steering it towards a new status as a privately owned operation under the control of a Texas energy conglomerate.

DML won the job of supporting the Trident nuclear deterrent force in 1993, bidding £64 million less than its Scottish rival, the Rosyth Naval Dockyard... The US owners will have to accept financial liability, for example in the event of a nuclear accident, which were previously covered by the Crown's immunity.

'What is to stop a hostile country taking over Brown and Root?'

Police stop music for missing girl

Angella Johnson

DETECTIVES stopped the music at a nightclub where new year revellers were celebrating to appeal for information about teenager Louise Smith who has been missing for a week... Louise, 18, disappeared after leaving the Spirals club at Vaux, near Bristol, after a Christmas Eve party.



Louise Smith: last seen early on Christmas Day 'repeat' event - exactly a week after the Christmas party Louise had attended.

said a police spokesman. The club is a popular venue and many of the youngsters are regular visitors... Uniformed plainclothes police handed out leaflets and interviewed revellers after asking the DJ to halt the music so they could make an appeal for information.

Christmas Day as she left the club - less than a mile from her home at Chipping Sodbury - with friends... Louise was wearing a dark blue and green checked jacket over a white satin blouse and black satin dress. She had black high-heeled shoes.

Parents join Thai hunt for daughter

Tom Sharrett

THE parents of a 23-year-old British woman who has gone missing in Thailand have appealed for anyone who may have seen her to help them find out what has happened to her... Johanne Masheder was due to return home to Christmas, but failed to catch her flight from Bangkok to Heathrow on December 21.

to southern Thailand, where they believe their daughter may have been heading, to help in the hunt... Johanne, newly qualified as a solicitor and about to take up a job with a firm in London, set off on a round-the-world trip in September.

has not been heard of since. 'I thought she might have had problems travelling around but I became really worried when she missed the plane,' said Mr Masheder... 'She had Christmas, her sister Kate's 21st birthday and a new job with a firm of London solicitors to look forward to.'

company, said the family was very close and Johanne - known as Jo - was a sensible person... 'There is no doubt something has happened to her because if it had just been a change of plan she would have done everything to get in touch with us.'

informative:

Table with financial data including Cheque Rate, High Interest Savings Account, and 60 Day Account. Columns include Interest, Gross, Net, and % p.a.

Vacancies at JobCentres 'do not pay living wage'

MOST vacancies available through JobCentres do not pay a living wage for a couple with two children, according to a year-end analysis of vacancy data from all the major JobCentres in Greater Manchester... It shows that more than nine out of 10 jobs pay less than £200 a week.

cent paid less than £100 a week, the survey showed. The average hourly rate of pay was just £3.66 an hour, while 12 per cent of jobs paid less than £2.76 per hour and only 20 per cent paid more than £4.15 an hour... 'Unemployed people are becoming increasingly frustrated by their inability to find jobs which would support a family,' said Mrs Cox.



ADVERTISEMENT

PRESS STATEMENT BY THE NIGERIA HIGH COMMISSION ON THE ONIBIYO DEPORTATION MATTER

- 1. The attention of the Nigeria High Commission has been drawn to the plight of the Onibiyo family who are facing the unfortunate prospect of forced separation through the deportation to Nigeria of some members of their family... 2. The High Commission regrets that the campaigners for the Onibiyo family have found it exigent to resort to the despicable tactic of denigrating the Nigerian Government as a means to an end.

NIGERIA HIGH COMMISSION LONDON

Museum at risk in boot sale ban

THE upkeep of a Grade 1 listed house whose grounds are home to a privately owned photographic museum is under threat after the local council banned fundraising car boot sales on the site, writes Geoffrey Gibbs.

Bowden House, a magnificent Tudor building with Regency facade set in 13 acres of wooded grounds outside Totnes, South Devon, has been restored by the Petersen family since they bought the dilapidated property almost 20 years ago.

Funds for renovation have come in part from car boot sales, which supplement the income from visitors to the house and the Petersens' British Photographic Museum.

But villagers complained about congestion in the narrow country lanes leading to the house, and South Hams district council in November gave the family three months to stop the sales.

Joan Petersen, who helps run Bowden House with her son Chris and his wife, says the £200 a week revenue from the boot sales is essential to meet the maintenance costs.

The family would be challenging the council's ban.

John Eaton, the council planning officer, said: "If they come to us and we can discuss the matter, we will seek to resolve it."



Family concern... the Petersens at Bowden House: Belinda (left) and husband Christopher with Mr Petersen's parents, Keith and Joan PHOTOGRAPH: TIM CUFF

Water chaos in thaw

THOUSANDS of homes were flooded and some communities faced water shortages yesterday as freezing conditions gave way to a thaw, bursting water mains and domestic pipes across the country.

In Strathclyde, 500,000 homes had burst pipes over the holiday. And although engineers worked non-stop to restore mains supplies, for many people returning from holiday breaks to flooded homes could only switch off their supply at the mains.

More than 100,000 homes in Northern Ireland were also without water, and rationing was introduced as reservoirs emptied. Tankers are in use in some areas. The Water Service said around 20 per cent of Ulster's 600,000 homes were

affected by rota cuts of between two and 12 hours.

Millions of gallons have been lost through burst pipes following the coldest December on record, when temperatures fell below minus 1°C.

Thousands of consumers in the Carmarthen area of west Wales spent the day without water because of a burst main linking a treatment works and the River Towy.

Anglian Water reported dozens of calls to deal with burst mains and to cut off supplies to empty houses.

A spokesman for authorities in Essex and Suffolk, where hundreds of mains pipes burst over the weekend, said: "The phones are blocked out with calls."

Thames Water said customers were cut off at various times but teams were working to restore services. "Customers are advised to make

sure their pipes are properly lagged and that in really cold spells heating should be left on as much as possible to prevent freezing," a spokesman said.

According to weathermen, the Christmas freeze prevented 1995 being the warmest year on record. Until the final days of the year, Britain had average daily temperatures of 10.7°C — marginally above 1949, the hottest 12 months since records began 336 years ago.

But the weather did not stop hundreds of thousands of revellers greeting the dawn of 1996 with celebrations across the country. In London, around 70,000 packed into Trafalgar Square, with 20,000 more in the surrounding area, while 300,000 gathered in central Edinburgh for a celebration claiming to be Europe's largest.

Old train steams into 1996

Geoffrey Gibbs takes a ride on a privately restored branch line axed 24 years ago

STEAM train enthusiasts were out in force in Dorset yesterday for the first New Year's Day service between Swanage and the village of Corfe Castle since the branch line was axed 24 years ago.

Among the passengers aboard the first of the four-coach trains to pull out of Swanage behind the Drummond M7 tank engine was Will Brook, a retired electronics engineer, who rode the last British Rail service on the line on January 1, 1972.

He and other volunteers from the 3,800-member Southern Steam Trust have painstakingly restored the 3½-mile link and its rolling

stock since the trust took possession of Swanage station in 1976.

Trains started running to Corfe Castle and Norden last August, and further improvements will be introduced this year when the signal box at Corfe Castle has been reconnected and a new signal box is completed at Harman's Cross, the half-way point.

David Green, passenger services manager for Swanage Railway, which operates the line on behalf of the trust, said the line's extension to Norden, where parking facilities are good, was attracting people into the Swanage area.

"We have been running

services daily since Boxing Day, and passenger loadings have been significantly up," he said. "Despite the miserable weather it's doing very well today."

The service will now close until the school half-term holiday in February, after which a weekend service will run until Easter before the daily service resumes through the summer.

Mr Brook works four days a week helping to restore locomotives at the railway company's engineering works. He and his wife had travelled on the line for their honeymoon in London in 1960, and took their children on the BR special on the day the line closed in 1972.

"Today was a very pleasant reminiscence of the old trains," he said.

News in brief

Attempted murder charges follow attack

A SUPERMARKET worker yesterday faced 10 charges of attempted murder after shoppers and staff were stabbed in a knife attack. Shahid Iqbal, aged 23, of Small Heath, Birmingham, is also accused of attempting to cause grievous bodily harm to two police officers.

Iqbal, a shelf stacker at the Netto store in Bordesley Green, Birmingham, where the attack took place, was remanded in custody for eight days by city magistrates. There was no application for bail.

Five people remain in hospital recovering from stab wounds following the attack on Friday. Five others have been treated and allowed home.

Fire Service callouts up 60pc

THE Fire Service has dealt with 60 per cent more incidents a year since 1992/93, according to figures produced by the House of Commons Library. The statistics, disclosed by Labour yesterday to support its campaign against cuts in the funding of the service, show a 23 per cent rise in call-outs to fires, a 66 per cent increase in other incidents and a 121 per cent rise in false alarms.

North Yorkshire, Tyne & Wear, West Yorkshire, Berkshire, Cambridgeshire, Cleveland, Cheshire and Gwynedd brigades have all seen their workload more than double in 11 years.

Appeal over 'frenzied' murder

POLICE hunting the killer of a pensioner murdered at his home in a "brutal and frenzied" attack yesterday appealed for information from the public. Detectives said Frederick Barnett, aged 70, regularly sold tobacco and cigarettes to local people and friends. They wanted to speak to anyone who visited him recently and people who saw his visitors.

Mr Barnett's nephew found his body on Saturday at his home in Hull, Humberside, where he is believed to have lived alone. He had suffered head and chest injuries from a blunt instrument and a knife.

Police unit for stadium

PREMIERSHIP leaders Newcastle United yesterday unveiled what is claimed to be the most advanced police facility at any stadium in the world. The new complex featuring a computerised custody suite, was opened by John Stevens, the Chief Constable of Northumbria and the United chairman Sir John Hall.

The £80,000 unit, jointly funded by the police and the club, means anyone arrested at a St James's Park match can be interviewed, charged and bailed, directly from the ground to the court. It includes a fingerprint and photographic suite, detention cells for up to 50 prisoners, a room for taping interviews, another for writing reports and doctors' examination rooms.

Fishing quota warning

A TORY MP warned yesterday of further cuts in fishing quotas as the Royal Navy patrolled the Irish Box, an area west of Britain and surrounding Ireland, in readiness for the arrival of the Spanish fleet. David Harris, the fisheries committee chairman who voted against the Government on the Spanish access issue in the Commons, has written to the Prime Minister calling on him to amend the Common Fisheries Policy under which foreign boats are admitted to British waters.

Up to 40 Spanish craft at a time have been allowed into the Irish Box under a European Union agreement bitterly opposed by UK fishermen.

Attacked woman dies

AN elderly widow who suffered a fractured skull in a street attack on Boxing Day has died in hospital. Evelyn Stanford, aged 63, was left lying in a pool of blood in Wolverhampton in the early hours of Boxing Day.

On Saturday three men appeared before Wolverhampton magistrates charged with robbing her. Police will wait until a post mortem today before deciding on further charges.

Angella Johnson

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سکتا من الاعمال

David Beresford reveals the story of the hippy turned ANC freedom fighter who blew up two about-to-be-commissioned nuclear reactors near Cape Town. The saboteur fled the country by bicycle, eventually marrying his accomplice in England. Even today the ANC is reluctant to talk about the most audacious act of sabotage in the anti-apartheid struggle



Happy ending... Rodney Wilkinson and Heather Gray after their wedding in Woodbridge, Suffolk

Man who spiked apartheid's Bomb

IT IS one of the curiosities of resistance to apartheid that few people, even South Africans, recall the ANC National Congress's most significant military coup. Even the ANC shows a reluctance, when evoking the glories of the struggle, to make much of the day it bombed Cape Town's Koeberg nuclear power plant. It is almost as if it is too shocked by its audacity to acknowledge the act.



But, after fierce resistance from some quarters of the new South African establishment, the Guardian is finally able to disclose at least the bare bones of this extraordinary saga. On December 18, 1982, it is one which deserves recording, if not simply as a story of derring-do, at least as a cautionary tale for the nuclear lobby.

The almost unbelievable attack was carried out by a Springbok — South Africa's one-time national fencing champion — who dropped out of university and joined a commune near Koeberg in the late 1970s. The operation was born of chance. When the community ran out of money in 1978, Rodney Wilkinson, who had studied building science as well as politics, reluctantly took a job at the plant, then under construction.

He worked there for 18 months. Encouraged by his girlfriend, Heather Gray, a speech therapist, he stole a set of the building plans. The couple took them to newly-independent Zimbabwe with the idea that they could be used by the ANC to attack the French-built nuclear installation which, it was suspected at the time, would be used by South Africa to produce plutonium for the construction of atomic bombs.

The ANC, whose ranks had been deeply infiltrated by Pretoria's spies, and which had recently had one of its agents jailed on charges of nuclear espionage, was initially suspicious of the white South African who pitched up on its doorstep, claiming to have penetrated what was assumed to be the most secure installation in South Africa.

After lengthy delays, during which the stolen plans were authenticated by Soviet and Western nuclear scientists, and Mr Wilkinson was vetted, the ANC invited him to carry out the attack himself. He was taken aback by the request, but agreed and returned to South Africa. To his surprise he gained fresh employment at Koeberg, with the task of mapping pipes and valves at the installation, for use in case of emergency.

The ANC appointed a guerrilla commander in Swaziland to act as Mr Wilkinson's handler. Once a month he visited the mountain kingdom — a favourite resort for whites in search of illicit pleasures not available in puritanical South Africa — under the pretence of enjoying a "dirty weekend". There he and his handler thrashed out strategy, designed to maximise embarrassment to the South African authorities while ensuring the minimum risk to human life.

They honed down possible targets to the two reactor heads, another section of the containment building, and a concentration of electric cables under the main control room. The choice of the reactor heads, which would be used to control the nuclear reaction, was to maximise the propaganda impact. Made of 110 tons of steel, they were unlikely to be seriously affected by the blasts, but they would demonstrate the ANC's capacity to hit at the heart of the plant.

The other two targets were chosen to cause as much damage as possible. Mr Wilkinson established that nuclear fuel had been moved into the plant ready for loading into the reactors, but was in dormant storage, which minimised any risk of radioactive fallout.

The damage was devastating. The authorities put it at half a billion rand and the commissioning of the plant was delayed for 18 months

The date for the attack was set for December 16. White South Africans marked the day each year with a public holiday celebrating the battle of "Blood River". A 19th century victory by the Boers over the Zulus. But the date had another significance: the ANC commemorated it as "MK" day, in honour of the founding of its guerrilla army, Umkhonto we Sizwe.

Mr Wilkinson and Ms Gray dug up four limpet-mines from a roadside arms cache in the Karoo, a remote area of the South African interior. Hiding them in wine box de-canters in their Renault 5,

they drove back to their home in the Cape Town suburb of Claremont, where they hid the devices in holes conveniently dug by their puppy, Gaby.

From there Mr Wilkinson smuggled the mines one by one, in a hidden compartment of the Renault, through the perimeter security fence at the nuclear installation, depositing them in a desk drawer in his prefabricated office. He then carried them hidden in his overalls through a security gate into the main building.

The build-up to the attack was marked by a series of near-mishaps. At one stage an

accidental short circuit started a cable fire. The incident was reported in the press and the ANC's president in exile, Oliver Tambo — who was privy to the planned operation but not to details such as timing — released a statement claiming it as an ANC would be deserted, he was then forced to undergo a farewell party on the premises with his fellow engineers, mentally praying that the time fuses were not defective.

That afternoon he flew to Johannesburg and was driven with a borrowed bicycle to a point near the Swaziland border, where he rode into exile.

The bombs detonated, but not quite as planned: the springs on the firing mechanism proved brittle and the devices exploded over a period of several hours instead of simultaneously. But the damage was devastating. The authorities put the cost at half a billion rand and the commissioning of the plant was delayed for 18 months.

The attack was a chilling demonstration of the vulnerability of an atomic installation to sabotage, as well as a reflection on the incompetence of the illegality of the

cause of the illegality of the Angolan invasion, did not prosecute him.

He was also caught breaching security at the nuclear plant, but nothing was done about it. Alcohol was banned in the plant. Testing security by smuggling in a bottle of vodka — roughly the shape of a limpet mine — he was caught in possession of it while wandering, hiccupping, around the "holy of holies", the main control room.

"I wanted to have a look; you see it in all the films — this great big room with all these banks of computers. But the tension must have been too much for me: I drank the vodka," he recounts wryly. Detained in the guard room, he was released after being given a warning by a security officer whom he knew from the local squash club.

Mr Wilkinson says his worst moment was when he was on his way to plant the second mine in the Reactor One containment building and spotted a guard watching him with apparent suspicion. "My legs were like jelly and I could feel beads of perspiration on my face." He detoured and placed the device at an alternative target the ANC had identified — in another concentration of cables under the second control room.

A seemingly impossible obstacle he had to overcome was carrying mines into the "clean" area surrounding the reactors, access to which was gained through an airlock where he had to strip and don protective clothing.

But he discovered that pipe tunnels leading into the clean area had plastic diaphragms to keep the air clean, and he was able to simply push the bombs through them, pass

through the airlock himself, and collect them on the other side.

"When I thought of that I was on cloud nine. I had been having sleepless nights about it," Mr Wilkinson recalls.

A pivotal figure in the operation was Mac Maharaj, an underground leader of the ANC in South Africa and now minister of transport, after whom the project — "Operation Mac" — was named.



"They never got to know how it was done, until now they have not known the identity of this couple," Mr Maharaj told the Guardian. In expectation of "vicious" retaliation by the South African security forces after the blast, Mr Wilkinson and Ms Gray were placed under "deep cover".

There was a subsequent attack by the South African security forces in which a couple were badly injured, which was believed to have been a misdirected act of retribution.

Mr Wilkinson flew from Swaziland to Maputo, where he met Mr Tambo in the ANC leader's office, the two men crying in each other's arms at their triumph. Ms Gray, who had flown out of South Africa a week before the attack, joined Mr Wilkinson there and they flew to Britain, where they were married in Woodbridge, Suffolk.

News in brief

Karachi murder toll dents Bhutto claim of control

AT LEAST 12 people were murdered in Karachi yesterday, exploding claims by Benazir Bhutto's government that political and ethnic violence in Pakistan's economic capital is being brought under control, writes *Cerald Bourke in Islamabad*.

Among the dead were two army captains, two policemen and a paramilitary ranger, police said. Of the 1,950 people who met violent deaths in the city last year, more than 200 were security force members.

Officials blamed the ethnic Mohajir National Movement (MQM), which enjoys widespread support in Karachi but vehemently opposes Ms Bhutto. Officials said the murders might have been in retaliation for the killing by security forces last Friday of four MQM activists.

The grisliest of yesterday's killings took place when six youths tied up a milk seller and his five sons at home in the suburb of Korangi and sprayed them with gunfire.

Hanged writer 'Man of Year'

Several Nigerian newspapers have named Ken Saro-Wiwa as their "Man of the Year" because of the barrage of criticism the execution of the Ogoni writer and activist brought down on military rule, writes *Chris McGreal in Johannesburg*.

Saro-Wiwa was hanged with eight other Ogonis in November for the murder of four political rivals.

Liberia surrender

Rebels fighting African peacekeepers in Tubmanburg, western Liberia, began surrendering yesterday, aid workers said. They turned up at peacekeeping positions with their weapons, waving white flags. — *Reuter*.

Island quake

A powerful earthquake shook Sulawesi island, Indonesia, yesterday, destroying wooden houses and triggering tidal waves. — *Reuter*.

Corsican shooting

Gunmen shot dead a Corsican nationalist and three bombs

Exploded on island yesterday

in an apparent revival of a vendetta between rival separatist groups. — *Reuter*.

Spotlight falls on puppet-master

Kevin Rafferty charts the rise of Japan's powerful and outspoken opposition leader

JAPAN'S political pundits expect a general election in the next few months, following the choice last year of the aggressive Ichiro Ozawa as president of the opposition Shinshinto (New Frontier) party.

"His election will bring into the open tensions and battles that have been rumbling for months under the surface," said a leading commentator.

A skilled operator in smoke-filled rooms, Mr Ozawa now moves into the public spotlight. He was secretary-general of Shinshinto and before that held a similar job in the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which ruled Japan continuously for 38 years. There he learned the dark arts of political string-pulling and was groomed by Japan's supreme godfather, Shin Kanemaru, to succeed him as fixer and kingmaker.

But Kanemaru was caught for corruption, disgraced and toppled, and his power base split. Rivalry between Mr Ozawa and Ryutaro Hashi-

moto led the former to quit the LDP in 1990, and brought an end to the party's long reign. Mr Hashimoto, trade and industry minister in the uneasy coalition government of Socialists and the conservative LDP, was elected LDP leader in September.

Mr Ozawa is unusually opinionated and outspoken for a Japanese politician. In his book *Blueprint for a New Japan*, he calls for an end to cringing defeatism. He wants to see Japan assume an international political role commensurate with its economic status.

An Ozawa-led government would be politically driven. For several years bureaucrats have ruled the roost, with politicians consigned to the role of referees in squabbles between ministries.

When parliament resumes towards the end of this month, Mr Ozawa will seize the opportunity to show his mettle. He will attack the government's decision to use more than 650 billion yen

(£3.9 billion) of taxpayers' money to bail out seven bankrupt *Jusen* — housing loan companies. This could set the stage for parliament to become — unusually — the forum for a serious debate.

But first Mr Ozawa has to consolidate his own party. He ran for the leadership partly because he feared his ex-ally Tadamu Hata. Had Mr Hata become party president, Mr Ozawa might have lost his key position as secretary-general.

The two men were allies when they split from the LDP in his nine-week spell as

prime minister in 1994. Mr Hata admitted that he was merely an actor playing to Mr Ozawa's script.

Despite his amiability, Mr Hata resented attempts to push him aside for a later defector from the LDP, Toshiki Kaifu. With Mr Kaifu defeated, Mr Hata took the Shinshinto presidency in 1994.

Some commentators believe that unless Mr Ozawa offers sweeteners, Mr Hata and his allies may march out of Shinshinto, perhaps to do a deal with the LDP, and scupper Mr Ozawa's greater ambitions.

One time his minders prevented pictures being taken of (David) Cassidy when his skin flared up in spots — the result of antibiotics he took perpetually as a prophylactic against venereal diseases — and tried to pass it off as teenage acne. He was 24 at the time.

Veronica Lee G2 page 9

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سكنا من الامل

Madeleine Barot

Protestant rites of the Resistance

Madeleine Barot, who has died aged 88, was closely involved in two of the most remarkable episodes of the second world war in France...

ment and her interest in ecumenicism was aroused. After graduation in 1935, Barot was given a fellowship to continue her studies in Rome...



Barot... formidable

on the international committee of the Student Christian Movement and in August 1939 was a delegate to the world conference of Christian Youth...

Barot stayed in Rome until May 1940 when Italy entered the war. She was named secretary of CIMADE and aware of the Resistance efforts organised by German Christians...

from the many international Protestant charities that had come together to form CIMADE. Nurses and food supplies arrived but the situation remained grim.

It became catastrophic when the Germans decided to expel Jews from their homes in Baden, and seven special trains brought 6,538 deportees, including many women, and dumped them in a rain-soaked Gurs in time for the worst winter of the war...

community into a purposeful force? Or is this a strong example of how the majority of the French population disapproved the racial laws of Vichy?

Barot believed that the Protestants of Le Chambon cherished the memory of their historic identity and acted with traditional independence. She liked to explain how, when the local gendarmerie had to make an arrest, they would stop in the café and loudly discuss their intentions...



A powerful pioneer in the male-dominated church... Barot and Anglican clergy in New Delhi in 1961 for the WCC

and Society. I, like others, found her somewhat intimidating, but she had an intimidating job. Most WCC members in the 1950s had hardly given more than a passing thought to the possibility of a more prominent role for women in the church...

Madeline worked with the BCC International Affairs Division held regular meetings with the corresponding body of the French Protestant Federation, and one year Madeleine invited me to her apartment to stay...

to know that younger women are carrying the torch. There is still so much to do. By then she walked with extreme difficulty, but the national branch of the Christian anti-torture association, ACAT (Action Chrétienne pour l'Abolition de la Torture), of which she was a founding member, met regularly in her Paris apartment...

when CIMADE was smuggling Jewish children out of France into Switzerland, popping them over the border fence. One night Madeleine heard the German guard coming. She herself climbed over the fence, but was caught on the top, and in her fright fell into a Swiss guard's arms...

Patric Knowles

Secondary panache

How pleasant to know Patric Knowles. Who is the kindest of souls. But being handsome and a British swell. Nobody expects him to act very well. Which is why he never gets good roles.

tabe and cultured tones. The studio cast him immediately as the married son of an English Lord, who has an affair with a well-bred American woman (Kay Francis) in a weepie called Give Me Your Heart...



Sidekick to Errol Flynn... actor, Patric Knowles

with a less wonky Welsh accent than most of the cast. At Universal, Knowles found himself drawn into the tatty end of their horror picture series...

and "other men". Knowles semi-retired to write a novel called Even Steven, returning to the screen in a couple of Westerns directed by Andrew McLaglen...

Hugh Hollingsworth Smith

End to the scourge of yellow fever

THE PIONEERING and courageous American virologist Hugh Hollingsworth Smith, who in the 1930s played a major role in the development and field trials of the 17D vaccine against yellow fever, has died aged 93.

Yellow fever, whose name derives from its characteristic jaundice, is a fatal tropical disease which, until the turn of the century, was a deadly scourge. It took a huge toll among Europeans in Africa and more recently in the Americas...

Smith retired from the Rockefeller Foundation in 1954 and four years later he took up a teaching and research post at the University of Arizona, which he held until 1988 and where he founded a society of tropical medicine...

Another Day

January 2, 1812: You will have heard, in all probability, an account of my shipwreck from Mr Coutts. That I am here to relate it is rather extraordinary, for I escaped not only a sinking ship, but put to sea in a boat when one could hardly have supposed it could have lived five minutes...

Birthdays

David Bailey, photographer, 68; Simon Base, cricketer, 35; Nicholas Baring, chairman, Commercial Union, 62; Christopher Campbell, batsman, British Shipbuilders, 62; Admiral William Crowe, US ambassador to London, 61; David Graveney, cricketer, 42; Hugh Heilbron QC, 47; Douglas McAvoy, general secretary, National Union of Teachers, 57; Sir Bruce Castle, governor, Bank of Scotland, Oxford, 65; Sir Michael Tippett OM CH, composer, 61.

Letter

Keith Dixon writes: J M Bernstein was wrong in his obituary of C. S. Lewis (December 11, 1995) to characterise analytic philosophy as arid. The images associated with that word - parched, bereft of life, sterile, unproductive and alien to human existence - have no application to the discipline within which I was educated.

in contrast to sociological theory - which is often grandiose, inflated, opaque, tortured and muddled by the desire to promote political or moral ends - analytic philosophy in its heyday offered a new and exciting form of objective and rational discourse.

H. L. A. Hart's The Concept of Law (1961) applied the analytical perspective to some hitherto intractable problems in jurisprudence. On a contemporary note, the most illuminating and rational analysis of feminist theory (The Septimal Feminist) was written by an analytic philosopher.

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Jackdaw



Scroll down

I HAVE a job of sorts. It is called Paying the Rent Until I Write My Original Screenplay about Truth and Beauty. The job description: writing articles about celebrities for a young women's magazine...

sprawling ranch outside of Livingston, Montana. (Control, MONT.) And "There's nothing like being a parent to teach you what really matters in life. The fame, the money, the limos - you can keep it. I mean, being a father/mother is more important to me than any movie could ever be." (Alt, BABY.)

Future Booze NOW, at long last, one of the big brewers has come up with a contemporary British pub design that could widely be reproduced. In 1994, Bass reproduced a large site in Surton in south London that it wanted to exploit, but it did not have a ready-made theme to put in it. So it was forced to go off and develop a new one. It came up - surprisingly - with a simple design, without the clutter of other pubs, but with a large clear glass window, painted walls and big plain wooden tables and chairs...

music, then Bass really would have invented the pub of the future.

Ground Zero

SEPTEMBER 1, 08 March 2.30 am. Two boatloads of commandos appear off starboard. We see guns, stun grenades and tear-gas canisters. They come alongside and order us to stop. We just take their picture. Then they throw grappling hooks over our rails to board, but their ladder keeps falling over in the rough seas. So they sort of flop on to our deck, like bugs, on their backs. We are six miles from group One commando sports a T-shirt that on the front says NAUTILE 1995, the name the French military has given the operation against Greenpeace, and on the back a picture of the Rainbow Warrior. Bizarre! We try to swap him a Greenpeace T-shirt for him, but ours is too small for him. Army troops arrive, and the commandos float away on their rafts. We declare cock all hell with a plastic bottle of whiskey. Finally we're informed that we'll be charged with a customs infraction! September 2. My mother tells New Zealand radio: "At least a scream would be better than this silence." Thanks, Mum. September 7. Los Angeles. Groggy we arrive at the LA airport. A caterer/cleaner comes on board, and I tell him I'm being held hostage by the French military. He seems uninterested. From Stephanie Mills's Rainbow Warrior II diary, packed with self-importance and vanity on both sides, in Bazaar

two or three? Yes. Expect to spend a lot of your twenties and early thirties moving from job to job, and also from skill to skill. People are moving across the boundaries of occupations at a much faster rate.

Letting go

Details magazine grills the US Secretary of Labor, Robert Reich. SO WHAT'S the future of work going to look like? A combination of job hunting, a lot of uncertainty, and the absolute necessity of learning on the job. That sounds more like Blade Runner... Will we be more likely to have, say, ten jobs in a lifetime instead of

numbers of people sit all day long simply typing at key boards, putting data into computers. Often they are monitored electronically. They cannot take more than a three-minute bathroom break. In these environments technology is trapping people, it's... oppressive.

Letting go

Do you think we'll all be freelancing in 20 years? Well, we're heading in that direction. Large companies are outsourcing - that is, subcontracting more of what they're doing to small businesses and freelancers. And let's not romanticise freelancing. Most freelancers would rather have more job security. And their time is not their own. You're at the beck and call, any hour of the day, of organisations that need your services. A freelancer, an entrepreneur, and independent contractor may be spending a significant part of their day making choices about healthcare, pensions, doing paperwork, or just drumming up the next job. So job security will basically be obsolete. Job security is a thing of the past. It's going to be very difficult for

young people to assume they will have a certain income cushion two, five, 10 years from now. That makes it more difficult to buy a house, start a family, do all the things which require at least some degree of confidence about the future.

Letting go

Most people will join what I call the anxious class... Corporations seem to have all the power these days... How can a worker protect him or herself from being exploited? The best protection is having skills that are in demand. There's no substitute for being someone whom the market needs... In a way I am freelancing. I spend a lot of time on the road, moving around the country talking to people... What you have to do is look at the faces of people at their workplaces. That's what I do. And what do you see there? The truth? Anxiety.

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Washington Diary

Maureen Dowd

All through college, we wore the same thing every day: Indian cotton shirts and bell-bottom jeans.

So imagine my chagrin, once I finally got in a position to afford a decent set of marabou feathers, to find the nation once again swept up in dressing down.

If you actually relax, as your body likes to do once it gets into weekend clothes, it could get drowsy. Before you know it, you'll be lulled by the socratic blur of plaid and khaki into telling your boss about the time you used his name to get Springsteen tickets.

Men have become so confused that GQ has devoted its January issue to helping them "ramp up" to the weekend, enumerating a list of casual-Friday crimes:

• No denim shirts. Too ordinary and, frankly, too thirty-something.
• No logo T-shirts. No jeans. No sneakers.
• No baseball caps. You are not David Geffen or Steven Spielberg.

What has the fringe world come to when professionals have to be instructed not to wear dirty clothes to the office? The London Evening Standard lamented that a white-collar executive who affects the look of a blue-collar worker is merely a "jobbooman".

But the trend has spread from IBM to the White House, where Bill Clinton has instituted the first dress-down presidency. The cardigan era of Jimmy Carter now looks positively Armani.

Every Friday would be Formal Day. Men could wear black tie, velvet smoking jackets, ascots, riding breeches, bespoke suits, three-ply cashmere blazers and 300-thread-count Egyptian cotton shirts.

Maureen Dowd writes for the Washington Post

Sorting out the right crackpots

Commentary

Hugo Young

EMMA NICHOLSON is an admirable woman but not a serious politician. Her defection is a dramatic gesture, gratifying to her personal opinions and fulfilling a psychic need, but it will have the opposite effect from the one she wants to make.

There is such a thing as serious defection, even in the ungloriously tribal politics of Britain. The Gang of Four's exit from the Labour Party in 1981 was an act of due solemnity.

hard to talk to the Tory right these days without discovering that their new hero is Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the US House of Representatives. He is titular leader of the revolution that has begun to destroy the welfare consensus and other Rooseveltian baggage every US president, even Ronald Reagan, has handled with respect for the past 50 years.

What Gingrich has most critically offered his disciples is a claim to historical inevitability. The House went decisively Republican in 1994 and, with unprecedented discipline, enacted most of a Hundred Day programme that will, if it happens on the ground, change the face of American government.

Something inconvenient, however, already begins to deflect its trajectory, namely the judgment that President Clinton may be re-elected. Six months ago, hardly a single pundit gave Clinton a chance.

with their puritanical certitudes, believe. What America may be proving, in other words, is that dogmatic extremism has not met its historic destiny after all.

There remains, however, a great divide of attitude. Ideological politics are alive, and Clinton may be winning them. In the battle over the US budget, a Gingrichite House which is determined to slash programmes for the poor, privatise Medicare, cut government research, abolish environmental controls and cut tax for the very rich faces a President who would cut tax much less, keep health spending as it is and actually increase federal spending on education and environmental protection.

Ms Nicholson has opted out of the only battle she was ever likely to influence

namely the judgment that President Clinton may be re-elected. Six months ago, hardly a single pundit gave Clinton a chance. Mired in sleaze and impotent before Congress, he couldn't produce an international record that made up for domestic failure.

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Weather is nobler in the mind

Commentary

Catherine Bennett

IN WINTER, if memory serves, the weather is often a little cold. But perhaps I'm mistaken? No, the encyclopaedia confirms that low temperatures are indeed to be expected during this reliable interval between autumn and spring.

Given our current, inexhaustible interest in climatic variation it seems a pity that Shakespeare made so little of this atmospheric stuff. Today, one feels sure, Hamlet would go on to mention the treacherous driving conditions around Elsinore.

A little of this goes a long way. Weather forecasting may sometimes be useful, but weather reporting, such as there's been over the holiday, can never be anything but a wind-up — or, as Johnson told an amateur climatologist: "Folk, pooh, you were talking us that of which none but madmen in a mine or a dungeon can be ignorant. Let us bear with patience or enjoy in quiet, elementary changes, whether for the better or the worse, as they are never secrets." And they're not really news, either, are they?

THE overreaction could be a sort of post-hurricane insurance policy, although the excitable daily news suggested a more straightforward desire to communicate the drama of extreme weather conditions impartially around the country, irrespective of regional variation.

As quantities of snow stayed stubbornly in the sky, a fatal accident on an icy lake

ren's hospital (from Peter Pan) or to any traceable descendants of Ledebally or Besenbach. But John Lennon and Yoko Ono's future grandchildren will now be freed from the necessity to work for a living until 2050. And life will be decidedly more comfortable for the many — and in some cases already well-heeled — grandchildren of Evelyn Waugh until 2036.

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Royalty lingers on

From this week, a new copyright law will hit concerts, school plays and 99p classic books. John Ezard laments a blow to high-quality culture

URGENTLY circulating in the Sobo office of the Performing Right Society's life, but changes, restricts and almost certainly, depletes the cultural life of Britain. Through an obscure parliamentary committee it tabled legislation, at the behest of Brussels, which extends authors' copyright from 50 to 70 years after death.

An early, provisional estimate is that the move will add £1 million a year to publishing and performing costs — which will raise prices for the public. It has been estimated that it will add "many hundreds of pounds" to the cost of mounting a long work such as Elgar's Dream of Gerontius, an immediate disincentive to new performances.

MSIBRY and turmoil are the reactions so far from the Publishers' Association, which — already hit by the collapse of the Net Book Agreement — is resigned to fewer new editions and adaptations. Worst hit are the publishers whose 99p editions of out-of-copyright classics earned acclaim for combating last year's best-seller lists.



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New Internationalist Magazine advertisement for John doesn't get it. It includes a cartoon of a man looking thoughtful, a subscription form with fields for Name, Address, Postcode, and a 3-month free trial offer. The form also includes a section for 'No-risk trial subscription' with a 'YES' checkbox and a section for 'Direct debit' with a 'YES' checkbox.

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

Hotels group uses cash from roadside restaurant sale to give shareholders incentive to shun predator

Forte's £500m sweetener

Fast King

FORTE, the besieged hotels group, will today announce a £500 million defence package for shareholders...

businesses, which include the Happy Eater, Little Chef and Welcome Break chains.

Meanwhile, Forte stepped up its attack on Granada yesterday, repeating its claim that the group is an unfocused collection of unrelated businesses...

He said Granada's bid would leave it with debts of £3.6 billion, exposing its "unrelated" businesses to unacceptable risk...

But Granada hit back, insisting that even with the debts associated with a takeover of Forte, its strong cash flow would be sufficient to cover interest repayments...

than Forte had managed in recent years. A spokesman added: "As for the argument that we are a conglomerate, we would say Granada is a true leisure company with businesses geared to the 21st century."

Notebook

A bad case of Euro-sclerosis



David Gow

EMMA NICHOLSON'S defection to the Liberal Democrats, reducing John Major's parliamentary majority to three, opens up the prospect of a general election this year...

this meeting is designed to discuss reform of EU institutions but, at heart, its central purpose is to provide a definitive answer to the question of German power.

Germany — condemned as the historian Hans-Peter Schwarz puts it — is itself in the midst of the potentially explosive debate about that question. Should it — as Helmut Kohl, architect of its unification, believes — renounce a large portion of that sovereignty and its central power of Europe — is it itself in the midst of the potentially explosive debate about that question...

The company, which under takeover rules must present any new information to shareholders in today's defence document, is expected to promise shareholders either a special dividend payout or a share buy-back if the group retains its independence...

Egon Ronay fears for motorists' stomachs if Granada sets standard

EGON Ronay, the guardian of the nation's culinary standards, will tonight wade into the debate over Forte's future with an outspoken attack on the quality of catering at Granada's service stations...

worried that the quality of food sold at Britain's motorway service stations will decline if Granada wins the battle for Forte.

tested one in 10 of Britain's service stations, is concerned at this prospect. He warns: "The best food along the motorways might end up in the camp of some of the worst."

Meanwhile, Labour's transport spokesman, Brian Wilson, has said Labour will consider introducing competition at individual service station sites as a means of maintaining standards — something Mr Ronay has campaigned for.

At present, service stations are under no obligation to comply with food quality standards.

Slow growth set to thwart Tory hopes

Larry Elliott Economics Editor

GOVERNMENT hopes that a strengthening economy will underpin political recovery over the coming year are set to be frustrated by a slowdown in growth, according to a forecast released today.

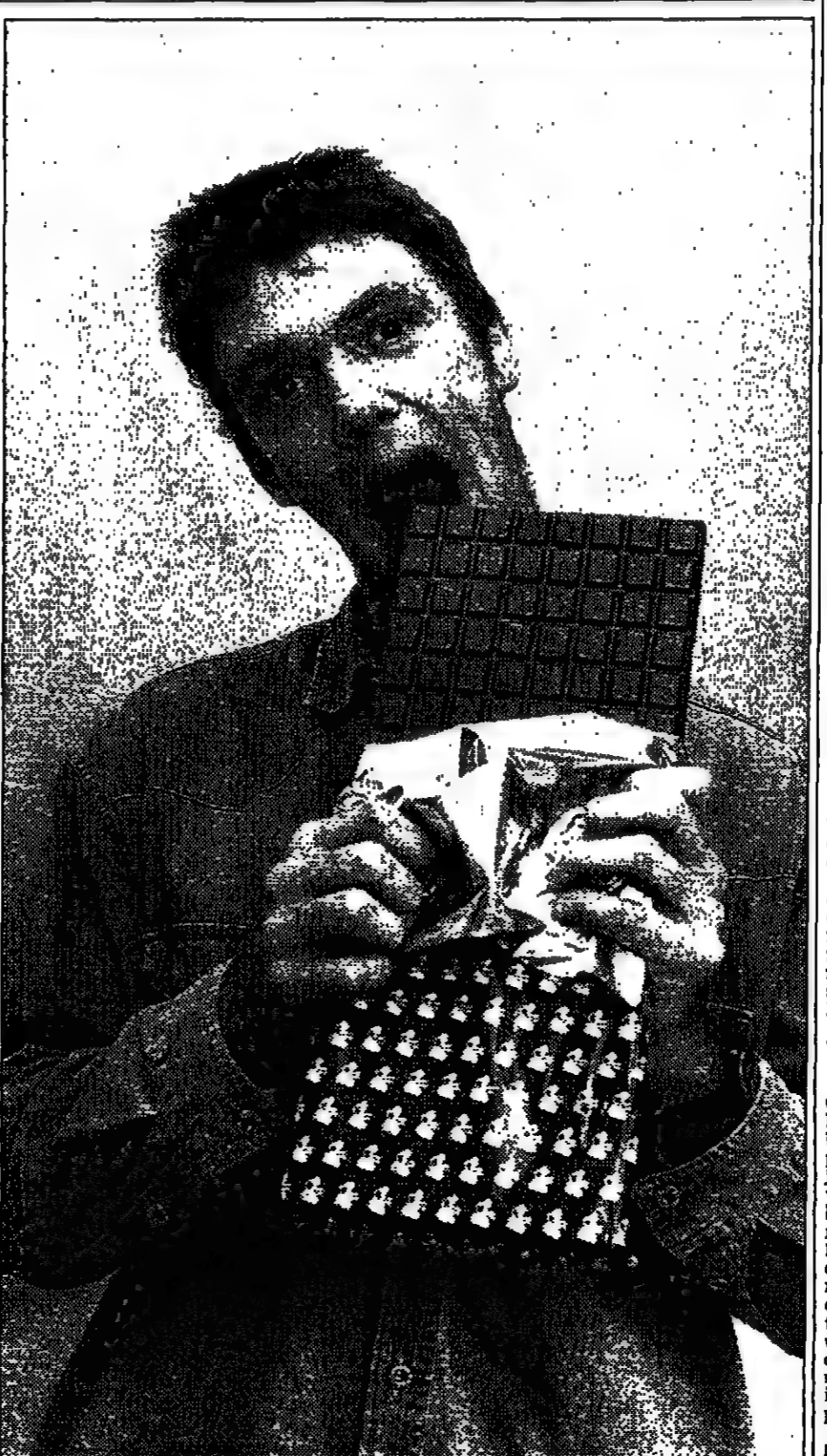
Although the group foresees strong activity in 1997, this may be too late to have any real bearing on the outcome of the general election, which has to take place by May 1997.

It adds that inflation is set to remain low for the rest of the century. The headline (all-items) inflation rate is set to fall this year as a result of cheaper mortgages, while the underlying measure (excluding the cost of home loans) should remain unchanged.

Despite the Prime Minister's optimism about the prospects for 1996, a study by Cambridge Econometrics predicts that a poorer outlook for exports and de-stocking by several key manufacturing sectors will limit expansion over the coming 12 months.

By the end of 1996, it says, political worries and the possible need to raise interest rates to choke off expansion in the economy will undermine investors' confidence.

De-stocking by parts of industry is forecast to keep prices under pressure in check, and Cambridge Econometrics singles out motor vehicles, chemicals and the brick industry as sectors where inventories have risen in response to weak demand.



WHAT deeply alarms much UK business opinion is that these considerations cut little ice in British government circles. Underlying the recent CBI poll, showing a healthy majority in favour of Emu, was a widespread fear of being left behind, and of losing even residual influence in a Europe that will inevitably be dominated by its biggest nation, Germany.

POLITICALLY, then, 1996 could engender further "Euro-sclerosis". This is all the more likely because the economy faces a very bumpy year.

The evidence of the last quarter of 1995 is of a sharp downturn in output, not only in strike-infested France, but also in Germany suffering from a 5 per cent appreciation of the mark. Most analysts expect this to be a short-lived problem, with German growth picking up, particularly in the wake of this month's tax-cuts. Even France is generally reckoned to be set for renewed growth in 1996.

We will hear a lot about Emu being foisted on a gullible public who are unaware that it will lead to a federal Europe. That is in the Tory school of falsification, a centralised super-state. This wholly specious argument is designed to obviate the need for the long-overdue debate about modernising the British state and revitalising a society in the throes of often violent decay.

Putting aside for a moment the normally impenetrable debates about the merits or demerits of a single currency, it is clear that the EU still acts as a lodestar for a host of countries on the continent — not least the ex-Communist nations only recently released from the Soviet grip, and still deeply anxious about Russian chauvinism.

Such results should be only partially welcome to Mr Major, even if he survives the full year. It will almost certainly kill off the notion of a European Germany, and give new weight to the prospect of a German Europe in which the UK would have even less of an influential role to play.

Housing revival forecast

Larry Elliott

THE housing market is set to emerge slowly from its six-year recession in 1996 as lower mortgage rates rekindle demand for property, according to a range of new year predictions.

prices to rise by 2 per cent in 1996, with NatWest bank pencilling in a rise of between 2 per cent and 3 per cent.

Mr Barr added that higher activity was expected to be reflected in gently appreciating house prices, with rise of 2 per cent in the year to the fourth quarter of 1996, followed by a 1 per cent increase in 1997.

Most industry analysts believe that cheaper home loans will mean property prices will keep pace with inflation this year, after falling by more than 1 per cent in 1995.

These tentative signs of a housing market recovery are expected to be sustained in the months ahead. Turnover, which is currently over 10 per cent lower than a year ago, should start to recover in early 1996 and double-digit growth rates should be recorded by year-end.

However, he added that the Government happier than higher house prices, which could transform the political landscape.

Pension funds recover but fail to match the market

Ken King

BRITISH pension fund managers produced a healthy 19 per cent return during 1995, but still underperformed the market by 5 per cent, according to a survey published today.

per cent was produced — but still fell disappointingly short of the 24 per cent return provided by UK equities as a whole.

stock market, which produced a return of 24 per cent, and overseas government bonds, which returned 21 per cent on the back of falling interest rates worldwide.

£116,000 Tadpole pay-off

Ken King

TADPOLE Technology, the crisis-hit company which makes notebook computers, gave its former director Geoffrey Burr a £116,000 pay-off after he resigned last May, according to the group's annual report.

News of the pay-off will outrage thousands of small investors who lost heavily on Tadpole.

The shares were priced at 65p when the company was floated on the stock market in 1992, but shot up to a peak of 440p in autumn 1994, helped by over-optimistic profit forecasts from City brokers.

Firms face 'hidden tax'

Simon Beavis

LABOUR has stepped up its campaign to expose the Government's mis-handling of the taxation system, by warning that Treasury plans to rush in a new self-assessment scheme would mean a hidden tax rise of nearly £1 billion for employers.

Promising that Labour would use forthcoming debates on the Finance Bill to delay the planned start of the new system in April 1997, Mr Smith accused the Government of trying to conceal the new scheme's complications and hidden costs to taxpayers and employers.

He said the bill arose because profits were to be assessed on a current rather than a previous year basis, and because personal allowances would be set against current year profits rather than those for the preceding year.

Heathrow still busiest airport for the jet set

Financial staff

HEATHROW remains by far the busiest international airport, easily outstripping its nearest rivals, according to the latest figures.

New year starts with a whimper

This week

THE new year gets off with a whimper rather than a bang in terms of companies reporting, with just a small handful of second liners due to produce figures.

These with an eye for small but fast growing companies with a "hi-tech" flavour will be reading interim figures from Druck Holdings on Thursday. The firm makes highly specialised sensors and calibrators, for the petrochemical industry, and profits have been growing constantly for 23 years. Floated at 140p in 1982, the shares were trading at 23.75 last week.

Table with columns: Country, Rate, Country, Rate, Country, Rate, Country, Rate. Includes Australia 2.02, France 7.36, Italy 2.41, Singapore 2.14, Austria 15.05, Germany 2.19, Malta 0.536, South Africa 2.50, Belgium 44.20, Greece 354.00, Netherlands 2.415, Spain 182.25, Canada 2.06, Hong Kong 11.77, New Zealand 2.31, Sweden 10.18, Cyprus 0.95, India 54.65, Norway 9.57, Switzerland 1.72, Denmark 0.38, Ireland 0.94, Portugal 228.00, Turkey 92.237, Israel 4.89, USA 1.515, Saudi Arabia 1.78, India 1.515.

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ENGLISHMAN IS THE FIFTH 'WORLD' TITLE WINNER OF 1995

Lane's long road to a million dollars

David Davies on the impressive finish to an under-strength world championship

IN ONE of the great wind-fall wins in the history of golf, Barry Lane, eighth in the Volvo Order of Merit and 38th on the Sony World Rankings, made a million dollars on the last day of the old year.

Lane was representing Europe, for whose Ryder Cup team he failed to qualify this year, and he now joins Fred Couples, Davis Love III, Billy Mayfair and Frank Nobilo as players who have won the "world" something or other in the past few months.

of this hole renders the waterfall system to the left of the green redundant, for it is not a massive hole to get anywhere near the hole and it was Lane, with the shorter shot to the green, who got the four.



Million dollar man... Lane drives at the 18th on his way to victory over David Frost in Scottsdale

Motor Racing

Stewart back in F1 with Ford power

Alan Henry on the grand plans of a former champion

FORD is expected to confirm its decision to award its 1997 Formula One engine contract to Jackie Stewart's new team at this week's Detroit Motor Show.

Since then Paul Stewart Racing, based in Milton Keynes, have expanded into one of the most competitive professional teams outside F1. Their most notable achievements are a hat-trick of British F3 championships, secured in 1982 by Gil de Ferran, in 1983 by Kevin Barron and in 1984 by Jan Magnussen.

Rugby Union

Tis the season to get lolly — and forget loyalty

Robert Armstrong on the impact that professionalism will soon make on the players, clubs, spectators and the England team

A TALENTED young player on the fringe of the England squad was recently offered £45,000 a year, a sports car and a subsidised flat if he would switch clubs at the end of the season.

The club's competitive future. The next eight months will witness the most ruthless competition among senior clubs for the best players.

palatable. Membership fees will jump by as much as 30 per cent next season and spectators will be asked to pay £7-210 to see a match.

High-profile club rugby will develop as a consequence of the European Cup, compelling some players to forsake the game in order to focus on their long-term careers.

Wales and Scotland will have to work hard to prevent an outflow of gifted players to the leading English clubs, or to such as Newcastle who have acquired a self-made millionaire to enable them to buy their way to the top.

England have no tour this summer, though a single Test against Australia may be staged in Sydney if a date can be fitted into the Wallabies' schedule.

International matches at Twickenham, which now boasts 75,000, have become a complex, hard-nosed business that imposes the same demands on Rowell as the England soccer team does on Terry Venables.

Racing

Pipe rings in the new with 129-1 hat-trick

MARTIN PIPE was the first to reach Exeter too early yesterday. The Somerset trainer, with the aid of stable jockey David Bridgewater, landed a 129-1 treble by taking the opening races with Crossa's Delight, Lisotho and Challenger Du Luc.

There were 12 acceptors at yesterday's five-day stage for Saturday's rescheduled King George VI Tripleprint Chase at Sandown, with Master Oats and Young Hustler being added and Egypt Mill Prince missing from the original list.

gradual improvement in the weather. Jim Dreaper, trainer of Merry Gale, has not decided whether his horse will travel over from Ireland, explaining: "There will be no decision for a day or two. The owner is keen to run and the horse has been left in the entries, but we have to consider the ground and other possible engagements."

Lingfield all-weather Flat card with form

Table with racing results and form for Lingfield all-weather Flat card. Includes race numbers, names, and times.

Table with racing results and form for Lingfield all-weather Flat card. Includes race numbers, names, and times.

Tennis

French pair are no match for Croatia

CROATIA, the favourites, had little difficulty in beating France in the Hopman Cup mixed team tournament in Perth yesterday.

Earlier the fifth-seeded United States produced the first upset of the tournament by beating the highly fancied South Africa 2-1.

RACELINE FULL RESULTS 0891-162-1668

AYR LINGFIELD 102 202 302

6' HOUNDS 122 222 322

New year starts with a WHIMPER

Soccer

Premiership: Tottenham Hotspur 4, Manchester United 1

Armstrong gives United defence a night to forget

David Lacey

MANCHESTER United's pursuit of Newcastle at the top of the Premiership stalled last night as Tottenham Hotspur shrugged aside their own injury problems to punish the chronic weaknesses that have suddenly arisen in Alex Ferguson's defence.

minutes. Dumitrescu's second corner of the game found Sheringham rising to meet it with a header which glanced behind off the outside of the near post. Then Rosen- thal fed the ball through a yawning gap to Armstrong, whose snap shot from 20 yards ricocheted off the right-hand angle.

Yet United's problems at the back persisted and led to Tottenham going back in front on the stroke of half-time. A right-wing centre from Austin, which took a steep deflection off Keane, did the damage. The strength in the air of Pallister was badly missed as Parker, though he reached the ball ahead of Sheringham, could only clear it to Campbell, who scored confidently from just beyond the penalty area.

Middlesbrough 0, Aston Villa 2

Easy for Villa as Boro's balloon hits wasteland

David Hopps

UNDER-soil heating — who needs it? Aston Villa's chairman Doug Ellis might consider abandoning his interest, after witnessing his side benefit from their enforced Christmas R & R with a victory of composure and vitality at the Riverside Stadium last night.

Walsh was fortunate to be struck in the chest when a drive from Yorke left him clueless, and the goalkeeper was beaten again five minutes before half-time. Johnson had proved increasingly elusive behind Villa's front two and when Townsend slipped in a left-wing cross his instant control and clinical left-foot finish were of high quality.

With Johnson, of course, there are also the unpredictable moments; a square pass to Spink, who admittedly was in claret-and-blue but who is Villa's reserve goalkeeper and was standing over the touchline in a bulky tracksuit and cloth cap, was a collector's item.

Leeds United 0, Blackburn Rovers 0

Fans in a fog as dreary duo settle for a draw

Stephen Bierley

THE fog over Yorkshire seemed to seep into the brains of both teams at Elland Road yesterday afternoon. Here was lack of spark and clarity in awful excess in a game that was deadly dull from start to finish with nothing to commend it other than the final whistle.

make excuses but the "too many games" argument will not do either. The rest of the match was little more than ordinary at the moment and on this occasion they settled for the easy option.

the player to pierce the gloom but his attempts to open up play were regularly thwarted by his total inability to pass the ball straight. Probably United's best chance came, however, when the Scot was put away on the right by Speed and, for once, behind the Blackburn defence, McAlister duly cut the ball back to nobody. It summed up his afternoon.

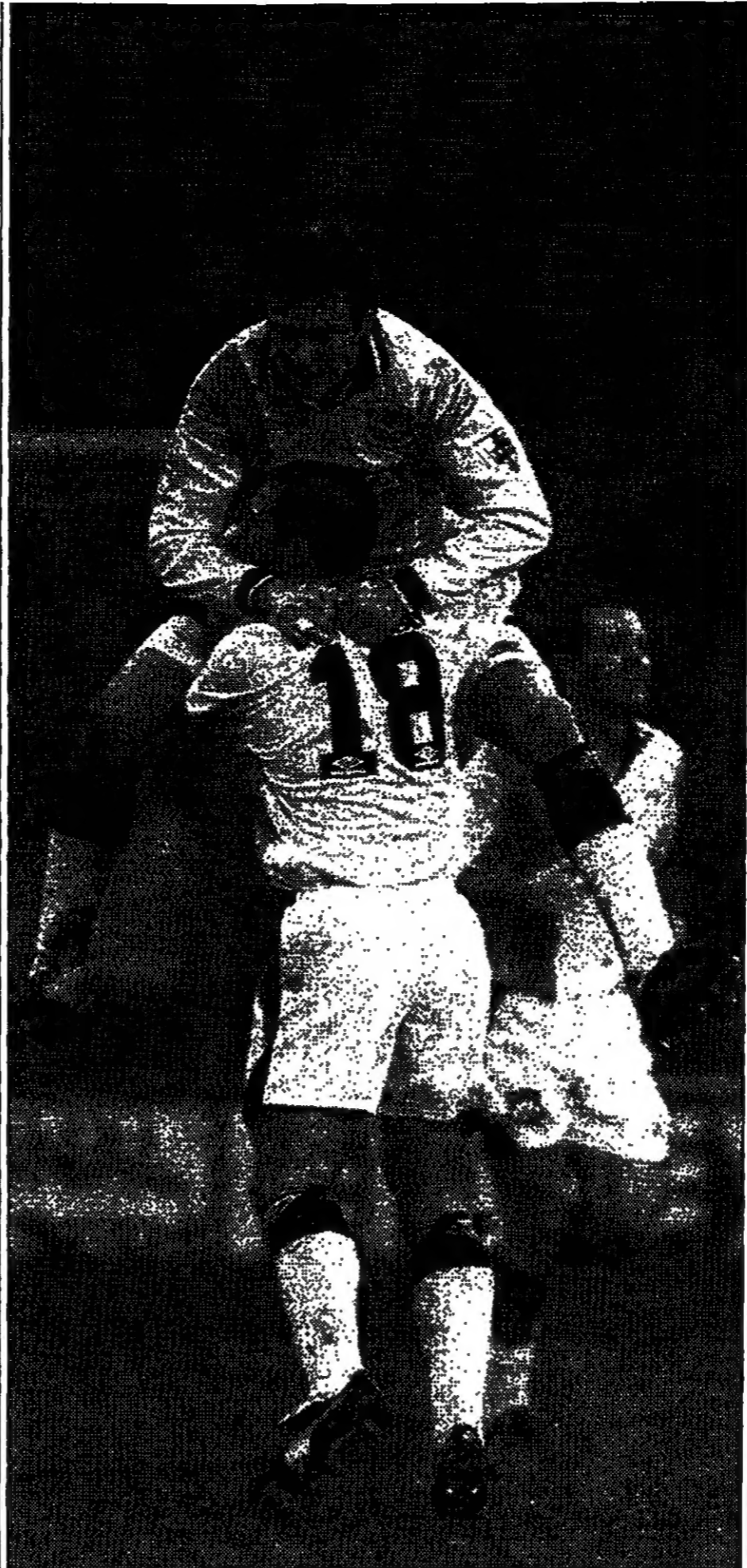
Cricket

England tour to SA Live Commentary 0891 22 88 28 Match Reports 0891 22 88 29

Seeing is believing for Hibs

NEW YEAR'S DAY has a habit of playing tricks on a Scotsman's mind, but those who watched Hibernian dismantle Hearts yesterday must have thought a hallucination had been slipped into their Hognanny juice.

during a second half of missed chances that they repaired the seemingly irreparable. The margin of their superiority was not hinted at during a first half in which all the goals were scored. Hibs even allowed the visitors to take an early lead when Pointon scored in his first Edinburgh derby.



Free and easy... Ferguson leaps into Joe Parkinson's arms as he celebrates his first away goal for Everton during yesterday win at Selhurst Park

Wimbledon 2, Everton 3

Ferguson pair unlocks door for Everton

Martin Thorpe

WIMBLEDON paid the price for believing their Christmas public consecutive and deserved wins at Chelsea and Arsenal, they entered the new year flat on their face.

their tenacious selves and playing 4-2-4, with Jones taking on his latest role in a busy week, this time as a right-winger. The first tangible product of the fight-back arrived on 55 minutes when Holdsworth headed in Leonhardsen's cross.

Gabbiadini keeps Derby on a roll

Neil Robinson

THE weather and a crossbar conspired to assist Derby County's rapid rise towards the Premiership yesterday.

ahead. Roberts missed twice — the first chance from three yards — and laid on two excellent opportunities for Taylor, but again the finishing was woeful. Chris Malkin equalised in the second half.

Manchester City 2, West Ham United 1

Mighty Quinn stings Finn

Cynthia Bateman

THE up side was that Manchester City scored more than one goal in a match for the first time this season; the down side, that it was against a perfectly dreadful West Ham with a greenhorn in goal.

Quinn had scored only once in 14 league appearances, and the pattern looked familiar as the Irishman headed two chances wide, Summerbee missed by a mile and Rösler shot high after heading wide.

but Rieper's header from Hughes's corner was disallowed. Eight minutes later City had the ball in the net again but Lomas's 25-yard strike was disallowed because Rösler was offside.

Coventry 1, Southampton 1

Referee ticked off despite Whelan late show

Paul Weaver

EVEN the referee appeared bored by this four struggle in the Premiership's sediment section. Keith Cooper blew the final whistle in the 89th minute and only restarted the game after an animated protest by Coventry's assistant manager Gordon Strachan.

ter City on goal difference. It was Whelan's third goal in as many matches.

Whelan's goal was rather different: he picked the ball up on the halfway line, looked up three or four times in the vain hope of finding supporting players, fell down, picked himself up, survived five tackles and despite being surrounded by three defenders found time to score with a low drive to Dave Beasant's left.

showed. But Southampton play a stifling, containing game and can be difficult to break down. I was hoping we would score first and open them up a bit.

watch." Makes a change from a new pair of glasses, someone suggested.



Quinn... double cream

سكنا من الاجل

Barry Lane's million-dollar windfall, page 13
Ferguson inspires Everton victory, page 14

Good news and bad for Angus Fraser, page 15
Wigan a whisker from the title, page 15

Sports Guardian

MERSEYSIDERS FIGHT BACK TO TAKE SIX-GOAL THRILLER

Premiership: Liverpool 4, Nottingham Forest 2

Collymore haunts Forest

Ian Ross

SO BLACK was November for Liverpool... unlikely they will win a first Championship in six years...

This was glorious stuff: majestic flowing football, goals aplenty and, above all, skill.

As ever, Forest's game plan held nothing more ambitious or adventurous than the rudimentary counter-attack...

In the absence of the injured Mark Wright, Liverpool's back line was, initially at least, anything but proficient...

A sense of disarray which often seemed to verge on panic was so pronounced that Forest led by two goals with barely a fifth of the game gone.

Both goals served to re-emphasise that simple is best, and, as Forest have proved in the European arena, they are the best at keeping it simple.

Liverpool held out for 13 minutes and that was to be applauded, so irresistible and precise was Forest's early football.

Five minutes on and the beachhead had seemingly become a fortress.



Taking it in his stride... Stan Collymore gets the better of Mark Crossley and slides home Liverpool's decisive third goal. PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL STEELE

Forest's downfall was Stan Collymore. The striker has spent considerably more time planting seeds than pulling up trees since his summer move between the clubs...

Collymore could not have missed had he tried. From a Liverpool perspective all seemed lost.

The salvaging of pride, not points. And then, as swiftly as they had disappeared into the enterprise-free zone...

Forest's manager Frank Clark criticised his defence. "We could have actually gone 3-0 up at one stage but the way we defended today even that wouldn't have been enough."

Crossley's hesitancy to slide in Liverpool's third and decisive goal. However, in true pantomime style, with only four minutes remaining Collymore succeeded in stealing his own thunder...

Nice T-bone, how about a lapel pin?



Richard Williams

S O ANSWER me this: if you had to nominate someone to take a penalty kick that would save your life, would you choose Eric Cantona or Marco Pierre White?

So the existence of the Official All Star Café, which opened in New York a week before Christmas...

Not long ago, Times Square was the sinkhole of Manhattan: a burnt-out neon hell of hustlers and porn cinemas...

Things are changing. Now the neon shines cheerfully, the sidewalks are clean, the movie theatres are showing Focus Features rather than 'The Devil in Miss Jones'...

The men are Joe Montana, the former quarterback of the San Francisco 49ers, Shaquille O'Neal, the '76 star of the Orlando Magic, and Wayne Gretzky, hero of the Los Angeles Kings...

THEY were all there on opening night in a crowd of 2,000 that also numbered Stevie Wonder, Brooke Shields, Whoopi Goldberg and Spike Lee...

sign of Gretzky - or Montana or O'Neal - was on the billboard outside.

Not that I'd be expecting to slide into a booth next to Andre and Brooke. That would be about as realistic as queuing for a hamburger at the Hard Rock Café...

No, the purpose of the Official All Star Café is not to provide Wayne and Monica and Shaq with somewhere to enjoy a quiet meal. The point is made quite explicit by the first thing you see when you leave the elevator...

ON THE far side of this wallet-reducing area, the restaurant opens out into a large room with a central bar surrounded by booths, above which there are display cases containing the partners' uniforms, equipment and trophies...

I ordered what turned out to be a perfectly decent chicken salad, washed down by a couple of Mexican beers: \$40 plus tip. But for those whose hero worship is really out of control, the menu makes a feature of the partners' favourite dishes: ravioli for Montana, chicken-fried chicken for Griffey, T-bone steak for Gretzky, spaghetti pomodoro for Agassi, smoked turkey sandwich for O'Neal.

Curiously, Seles is not mentioned in this context. That seems unfair. So on her behalf I nominate the Chocolate Chip Cookie Deluxe, modestly described as "a warm over-sized white chocolate chip cookie with white chocolate chip caramel swirl ice cream, whipped cream, chocolate sauce and caramel drizzle".

Back in the days when Times Square was a sexual free-fire zone, Jack Dempsey's Bar offered refuge a couple of blocks north. It disappeared years ago, knocked down to make way for a tourist hotel. But then the great heavy weight never tried to charge anyone \$52 for an embroidered sweatshirt.

Here's one statement that doesn't tell the whole story.

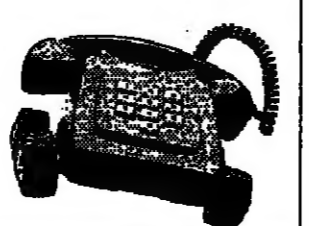


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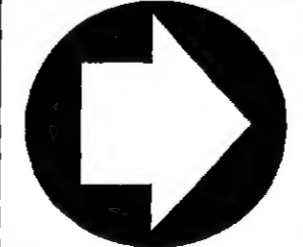
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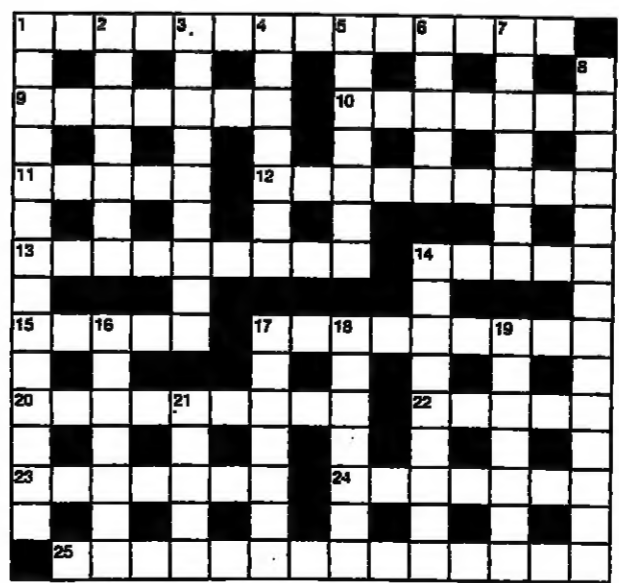


Dear Roy When we spoke on the phone, you suggested that it was my duty, as an "addict and advocate" of Prozac, to start off this correspondence. I'm not sure that I can produce the cheer-leaderly zeal suggested by that phrase. However, I'll give it a go....

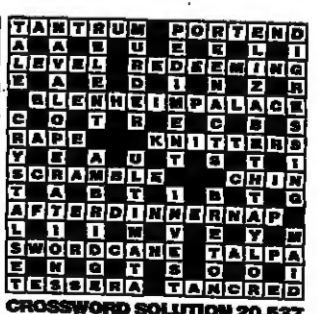
Zoe Heller G2 page 12

Guardian Crossword No 20,538

Set by Rufus



- Across: 1 Failing to win a single game and getting annoyed (8,6), 9 Charge made by soldiers in battle (7), 10 Resolute Old Testament character has a New Testament following (7), 11 Part of flag, one shot to pieces (5), 12 Chastise wanton whores with it (5), 13 Everyone in support of high-level operation shows courage (9), 14 Singers of low songs (5), 15 A danger out east at this time of the year (5), 17 Their guns will be broken, you can safely bet on it (4,5), 20 Notice result of successful appeal (5), 22 Sounds much to distribute (5), 23 Meet and collide (3,4), 24 Unusually thin I am getting Vitamin B (7), 25 They may be seen racing o'er spire (7,7) Down: 1 Stranded up a mountain without a drink (4,4,3,3), 2 Though particular, the place is in a mess (7), 3 Opposite of a day trip? (5), 4 Saucy and ready for cooking a snipe (3-4), 5 It may carry out a service on a summer afternoon (3-4), 6 Girl needs two keys to escape (5), 7 Buses - or trains? (7), 8 They help you way to the bank, providing you have a good balance (6,5)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,537

- 14 Giving away a salver in person (9), 16 She's seen in an arson attack (7), 17 It contracts to continue one's circulation (7), 18 Sort of desk that heads the list? (4-3), 19 Up in the air amid the dance (2,5), 21 Private lodging provided with little hesitation (5)

Solution tomorrow

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